



JOSEPH R. BIDEN, III
ATTORNEY GENERAL

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
820 NORTH FRENCH STREET
WILMINGTON, DELAWARE 19801

CONTACT JASON MILLER
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER
PHONE (302) 577-8949
CELL (302) 893-8939
Jason.Miller@state.de.us

Media Release
October 4, 2010

Biden joins Governor, legislators, advocates to mark Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Wilmington – Attorney General Beau Biden joined Governor Jack Markell, Senator Patricia Blevins, Representative Michael Barbieri, and other state officials today in praising advocates for their hard work helping domestic violence survivors. Biden spoke at a ceremony where Markell declared October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Delaware.

"I'm proud that our efforts this past year to enact tough laws against strangulation and to extend Protection From Abuse orders put Delaware on the leading edge of protecting women and their families from the destruction of domestic violence," Attorney General Biden stated. "The coordinated effort among legislators, law enforcement, government agencies, community members, and advocates to put an end to these crimes is representative of what's best about our state. Though we've made great strides since the Violence Against Women Act was enacted 16 years ago, domestic violence still occurs far too often, whether in the form of emotional trauma, broken bones, or homicide. Our fight to protect these innocent victims and punish their abusers never ends."

Biden has made standing up for domestic violence victims a top priority since taking office four years ago. He created a Family Division within the Department of Justice to focus exclusively on crimes against women, children, the elderly, and the abused. This year his office worked with the Governor and legislators to give survivors of domestic violence stronger legal protections. Under House Bill 336, the length of Protection From Abuse orders at least doubles -- to two years -- and in some cases, survivors can receive lifetime protection orders. Senate Bill 197 creates a stand-alone felony crime of strangulation, which is a leading indicator of domestic violence deaths, and allows prosecutors to seek prison terms for abusers.

###